

Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy services

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. If a parent or other member of a student's individualized education program (IEP) team requests an Occupational Therapy (OT) or Physical Therapy (PT) evaluation, is the request for screening submitted or is there a procedure to follow to move directly into evaluation?**

The process of providing an OT or PT evaluation begins with a request for screening. This process assures that the educational concern leading to the request is clearly identified and addressed by the appropriate support or service in the most efficient manner. In the process of responding to the request, the service provider will contact the student's parent (or speak directly with an adult student) to assure their concern is addressed. When the screening process is complete, if the service provider has not identified a need to move into evaluation, but the student's parent (or the adult student) requests the evaluation, the service provider will obtain consent and move from the screening process to an evaluation process.

- 2. Does the request for screening process delay an evaluation?**

No, the request for screening process actually better informs the evaluation if a need is identified to move into evaluation. The response process typically provides a more efficient and immediate support to address the area of concern. If no need for evaluation is identified in the screening process, but a parent still wants the evaluation, the therapist will request consent and move into evaluation. By completing the screening process, the therapist will be better directed to address the parent's specific concerns in the evaluation process.

- 3. Why does a request for screening form need to be submitted for a student transferring into the Houston ISD with a recommendation for OT or PT service in place from the previous instructional setting?**

The request for screening process is the most efficient and reliable method for requesting an OT or PT service in the Houston ISD. This is the single consistent system that school, field office, or district office personnel need to know in order to access an OT or PT service.

- 4. If a child/adult student is receiving OT or PT services in the community, does he or she need these services at school?**

OT and PT services provided at school are not the same as clinically based services and are not intended to take the place of clinically based services. Clinically based services may seek to rehabilitate the level of impairment a child/adult student experiences as a result of disability, school based services seek to support children in participating in and thus benefiting from special education.